

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4577

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 19059

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV EEC WB GW US UK FR

SUBJECT: FRG PRESS SPOKESMAN REPLIES TO QUESTIONS ON
BERLIN AND DIRECT ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

REF: BONN 18892

1. ARTICLE IN NOV 21 DIE WELT ENTITLED "DIRECT ELECTIONS
FOR EUROPE WITHOUT BERLIN?" WITH LEADER READING "SECRET
INTERIOR MINISTRY STUDY REVEALS THAT THE WESTERN ALLIES
SHY AWAY FROM A NEW CONFLICT WITH MOSCOW" PROMPTED
QUESTIONS ON SUBJECT AT REGULAR FRG PRESS
CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 21.

2. FRG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN KLAUS BOELLING RESPONDED
INITIALLY THAT THE PROBLEM WAS NOT CURRENT, BUT WHEN IT
BECAME CURRENT THERE WOULD BE CONSULTATIONS WITH THREE
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ALLIES. BOELLING EMPHASIZED THAT THE STUDY REFERRED TO

IN THE DIE WELT ARTICLE WAS NOT A "SECRET STUDY."

3. RESPONDING TO THE QUESTION OF WHO WOULD DECIDE THE MATTER OF BERLIN'S PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BOELLING SAID THAT "SEVERAL" WOULD TAKE PART IN FORMING THE DECISION AND THE POSITION OF THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES WOULD MOST CERTAINLY PLAY A VERY SPECIFIC ROLE IN THE PROCESS.

4. THE DIE WELT ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT A RECENT REPORT PREPARED FOR INTERIOR MINISTER MAIHOFFER BY HIS MINISTRY HAD CONCLUDED THAT, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, DIRECT ELECTIONS TO SELECT BERLIN REPRESENTATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WERE NOT POSSIBLE. THE SOVIETS WOULD SEE SUCH ELECTIONS AS A VIOLATION OF BERLIN'S STATUS AND WOULD POSSIBLY REACT WITH COUNTER MEASURES. THE ALLIES WOULD, THEREFORE, NEVER AGREE TO DIRECT ELECTIONS IN BERLIN. DIE WELT SAID WASHINGTON, LONDON, AND PARIS HAVE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT IN THE INTEREST OF BERLIN AND THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THE QA THEY WOULD EXERCISE THEIR RESERVED RIGHTS TO PRECLUDE DIRECT ELECTIONS. THE ARTICLE CONTENDED THAT, AS OPPOSED TO POLITICAL RESERVATIONS, THERE ARE NO LEGAL REASONS AGAINST DIRECT ELECTIONS. THE DIE WELT STORY CONCLUDED THAT INDIRECT SELECTION OF BERLIN REPRESENTATION WILL DENOTE THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME BERLIN WILL HAVE A "STATUS QUO MINUS" WITH RESPECT TO THE EC.

5. COMMENT. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT, WHEN FRG FIRST ASKED ALLIES IN BONN GROUP TO ENTER INTO "INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS" (BONN 18334), THE STRESS WAS PLACED ON "INFORMAL" SO THAT FRG WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL THE PRESS THAT THE QUESTION HAD NOT YET BEEN PUT FORMALLY TO THE ALLIES. BOELLING'S RESPONSE WAS COMPLETELY CONSISTENT WITH THAT PRE-DETERMINED LINE, AND WE BELIEVE HE HANDLED A DIFFICULT SITUATION AS BEST HE COULD.

6. THE FRG OBVIOUSLY RETAINS THE OPTION OF PLACING THE BLAME ON THE ALLIES IF TDSWRONG DECISION AND THE GOVERNMENT COMES UNDER ATTACK. SO FAR, HOWEVER, WE
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DO NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS IS WHAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS. WHILE IT WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST TIME FONOFF OFFICIALS HAD BEEN OUT OF TUNE WITH THE POLITICIANS, THEIR HANDLING OF THE ISSUE TO DATE LEAVES US WITH A MEASURE OF OPTIMISM.

7. AS NOTED REFTTEL, CONSULTATIONS IN THE BONN GROUP CANNOT PROGRESS VERY FAR UNTIL THE ALLIES HAVE REACHED

A CONSENSUS AMONG THEMSELVES. THEREAFTER, OUR AIM WILL
BE TO TRY TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON HOW TO PRESENT THE
DECISION REACHED AS ONE WHICH ALL FOUR POWERS AGREE IS
ESSENTIAL, AND THEN TO WORK OUT JOINTLY THE DETAILS FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED PROCEDURES.
HILLENBRAND

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